

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of preserving state information for applications over a telephone interface using a voice application computer, the method, performed by the voice application computer, comprising:

identifying a user profile over the telephone interface using the voice application computer and telephone identifying information;

identifying state information associated with the user profile, the state information comprising a plurality of cookies retrieved from other computers over a web interface and resulting from at least one telephone session, the voice application computer storing the user profile and the state information associated with the user profile;

storing policies to control accessing of the plurality of cookies and storing of new cookies;

automatically and selectively providing, by the voice application computer, a subset of the plurality of cookies to an application based on the stored policies; and

storing a new cookie with the plurality of cookies based on the policies.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the policies are dependent on at least one of needs of the voice application computer, first decisions made by at least one operator of the voice application computer, or second decisions made by users of the voice application computer.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the application has a corresponding uniform resource indicator (URI) and wherein the subset of the plurality of cookies is selected according to applicability of each cookie in the plurality of cookies to the URI.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the applicability of a cookie for inclusion in the subset is determined according to IETF RFC 2109.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the new cookie is received from the application as part of a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request for a uniform resource indicator (URI).

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the policies are based on IETF RFC 2109.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the storing a new cookie occurs responsive to verification of the new cookie by the voice application computer based on the policies.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising verifying a password for the user profile received over the telephone interface prior to identifying the state information associated with the user profile.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying a user profile comprises creating a user profile on the voice application computer.

11. (currently amended) An apparatus for preserving state information for applications over a telephone interface, the apparatus implemented [[with]] within a voice application computer, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving telephone identifying information over the telephone interface;
means for identifying a user profile based on the telephone identifying information;
means for identifying state information associated with the user profile, the state information comprising a plurality of cookies retrieved from other computers over a web interface and resulting from at least one telephone session;
means for storing policies for accessing and storing cookies;
means for storing a new cookie with the plurality of cookies based on the policies; and
means for automatically and selectively providing a subset of the plurality of cookies to an application based on the policies.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus supports a second application, the application provided by a first legal entity and the second application provided by a second legal entity.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the plurality of cookies includes at least a first cookie set by the second application, and wherein the subset of the plurality of cookies does not include the at least a first cookie.

14. (previously presented) A computer system to preserve state information for applications over a telephone interface, the computer system comprising:

a first interface including a first program to access a second computer system via a web interface, the second computer system including an application;

a second interface to send and receive audio signals to and from a telephone and to receive telephone identifying information corresponding to the telephone; and

a control subsystem to control the first interface and the second interface, the control subsystem including a second program for identifying a user profile according to the telephone identifying information, the user profile having corresponding state information,

the state information comprising a plurality of cookies retrieved from other computer systems via the web interface, generated based on at least one telephone session, and stored in the computer system,

at least one policy being stored by the computer system to control access to the plurality of cookies and storing of new cookies.

15. (previously presented) A computer program executable by a voice application computer, the computer program for preserving state information for applications over a telephone interface, the computer program comprising:

 a first set of instructions for receiving telephone identifying information from the telephone interface;

 a second set of instructions for identifying a user profile based on the telephone identifying information;

 a third set of instructions for identifying state information associated with the user profile, the state information comprising a plurality of cookies retrieved from other computers over a web interface and resulting from at least one telephone session;

 a fourth set of instructions for storing policies for accessing and storing cookies;

 a fifth set of instructions for storing a new cookie based on the policies; and

 a sixth set of instructions for automatically and selectively providing a subset of the plurality of cookies to an application based on the policies, the sixth set of instructions responding to receiving a request over the telephone interface to initiate the application.

16. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 15, wherein the policies are dependent on at least one of needs of the voice application computer, first decisions made by at least one operator of the voice application computer, or second decisions made by users of the voice application computer.

17. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 16, wherein each cookie in the plurality of cookies is associated with a corresponding domain, wherein the request includes a request host and wherein the subset of the plurality of cookies comprises cookies with a corresponding domain similar to a domain associated with the request host.

18. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 15, wherein the second set of instructions further comprises a set of instructions for creating a new user profile responsive to receiving telephone identifying information not associated with an existing user profile.

19. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 15, wherein the second set of instructions further comprises a set of instructions for creating a temporary user profile responsive to receiving telephone identifying information not associated with an existing user profile and wherein the computer program further comprises a seventh set of instructions for deleting the temporary user profile upon receiving a signal from the telephone interface signaling an end of a telephone call.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: permitting a user to manage the state information associated with the user.

22. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a user associated with the user profile during a telephone session;

determining a confidence level indicating an extent to which the user has been identified;

creating a cookie associated with the telephone session;

persistently storing the created cookie when the confidence level matches a first predetermined level; and

deleting the created cookie at an end of the telephone session when the confidence level matches a second predetermined level.

23. (new) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

means for identifying a user associated with the user profile during a telephone session;

means for determining a confidence level indicating an extent to which the user has been identified;

means for creating a cookie associated with the telephone session;

means for persistently storing the created cookie when the confidence level matches a first predetermined level; and

means for deleting the created cookie at an end of the telephone session when the confidence level matches a second predetermined level.

24. (new) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the computer system is configured to:

identify a user associated with the user profile during a telephone session,

determine a confidence level indicating an extent to which the user has been identified,
create a cookie associated with the telephone session,
persistently store the created cookie when the confidence level matches a first
predetermined level, and
delete the created cookie at an end of the telephone session when the confidence level
matches a second predetermined level.

25. (new) The computer program of claim 15, further comprising:
a seventh set of instructions for identifying a user associated with the user profile during
a telephone session;
an eighth set of instructions for determining a confidence level indicating an extent to
which the user has been identified;
a ninth set of instructions for creating a cookie associated with the telephone session;
a tenth set of instructions for persistently storing the created cookie when the confidence
level matches a first predetermined level; and
an eleventh set of instructions for deleting the created cookie at an end of the telephone
session when the confidence level matches a second predetermined level.